

Message Text

SECRET

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73

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

IO-03 SR-02 ORM-01 SP-02 L-01 PM-03 PRS-01 OES-02

CCO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /046 W
----- 037376

Z 300240Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4334

SECDEF WASHDC FLASH

JCS FLASH

CINCPAC FLASH

USSAG FLASH

S E C R E T SAIGON 3751

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, SREF, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM REFUGEE EVACUATION

REFS: JCS P 290010Z MAR 75

1. GEN. ARCHER FROM USSAG HAS, QUITE PROPERLY, RAISED WITH US QUESTION OF APPARENT EXISTING RESTRICTIONS (REF A) ON USE OF US MILITARY AIRCRAFT FOR EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

2. PROBLEM ARISES FROM REQUEST MADE BY US PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVE, DALAT, TO PLACE ABOARD LOCAL US GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHEN C130S INVOLVED IN NUCLEAR REACTOR INACTIVATION RETURN FROM DALAT TO SAIGON, AWAITING COMPLETION OF TEAM ACTIVITIES IN DALAT.

3. IN STATE 071355, THE USG IN ITS APPEAL TO OTHER NATIONS SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT "WHETHER THESE ARE CARGO OR PASSENGER CRAFT, OR CIVILIAN OR MILITARY CRAFT, IS IMMATERIAL". BOTH AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH ARE SENDING

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MILITARY ASSETS IN RESPONSE TO THIS APPEAL. IN VIEW OF THIS, IT

WOULD BE COMPLETELY INDEFENSIBLE IN WORLD PUBLIC OPINION FOR A US AIRCRAFT TO RETURN EMPTY FROM DALAT AT A TIME WHEN WE HAVE ASKED OTHER COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE AIR LIFT "WHETHER MILITARY OR CIVILIAN". UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IF THIS RESTRICTION HOLDS, I WOULD PREFER TO ABORT THE WHOLE PROJECT OF RETRIEVING THE NUCLEAR FUEL FROM DALAT, AND I HAVE INSTRUCTED C130S ARRIVING TODAY IN SAIGON FROM CLARK NOT TO PROCEED TO DALAT.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE AFFIRMATIVE DECISION TO PERMIT BACKLOAD OF REFUGEES FROM DALAT TO SAIGON.
MARTIN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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